

Box 1315



AN ACT

Supplemental to an Act creating a State Board of Health.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

SECTION 1. That the Medical Society of North Carolina shall choose from its active members, by ballot, six members, and the Governor shall appoint three other persons, (one of whom shall be a civil engineer,) and these shall constitute the North Carolina Board of Health.

North Carolina
board of health.

SEC. 2. That the North Carolina Board of Health shall take cognizance of the health interest of the citizens of the State; shall make sanitary investigations and enquiries in respect to the people; the causes of diseases dangerous to the public health, especially epidemics; the sources of mortality; the effects of locations, employments and conditions upon public health. They shall gather such information upon all these matters for distribution among the people, with the especial purpose of informing them about preventable diseases. They shall be considered the medical advisers of the State, and are herein specially provided for, and shall advise the government in regard to the location, sanitary construction and management of all public institutions, and shall direct the attention of the State to such sanitary matters as in their judgment affect the industry, prosperity, health and lives of the citizens of the State. The secretary of the board shall make annually to the general sssembly, through the governor, a report of their work for the year.

Duties of board.

Secretary to make
annual report.

SEC. 3. The members of the Board of Health as elected by the State Medical Society, shall be chosen to serve, two for six years, two for four years, two for two years. Those appointed by the governor shall serve two years. In case of death or resignation the board will elect new members to fill the unexpired terms.

Term of office.

Vacancy.

Officers.

SEC. 4. The state board shall have a president and secretary, who shall be treasurer, to be elected from the members comprising the board. The president shall serve two years, and the secretary and treasurer six years.

Compensation.

The secretary and treasurer shall receive a year for his services, but the other members of the board shall receive no pay, except that while on actual duty at meetings of the board, or on duty during the time special investigations are being pursued, that each member shall receive \$2.00 a day and necessary traveling expenses. These sums shall be paid by the treasurer on duly authenticated requisitions signed approved by the president of the board.

County boards of health.

SEC. 5. There shall be an auxiliary board of health in each county in the State. These boards shall be composed of the physicians eligible to membership in the State Medical Society, the mayor of county town, the chairman of the county commissioners, and the city surveyor, where there is such an officer, otherwise the county surveyor. From this number one physician shall be chosen by ballot to serve two years, with the title of superintendent of health. His duties shall be to gather vital statistics upon a plan designated by the State Board of Health. He shall make the medico-legal *post-mortem* examinations for coroner's inquests, and attend prisoners in jails, poor-houses and work-houses. Their reports shall be made regularly as advised by the State board through their secretary, and they shall receive and carry out as far as practicable such work as may be directed by the State Board of Health.

County superintendent of health
Duties.Compensation of
superintendent.

SEC. 6. The salary of the county superintendent of health is to be paid out of the county treasury, upon requisition and proper voucher, as follows: The salary of the superintendent of health shall not exceed the amount paid by the city or county in 1878, for services rendered by the city or county for medical services to sick in jail,

work house and poor house, and medical examinations for coroner's inquests.

SEC. 7. The organization of the North Carolina Board of Health shall be completed immediately after the passage of this act, and not later than six months after the passage of the same. The biennial meetings for the election of officers, shall, after the meeting of organization, be for the county boards on the first day of January, and of State Board of Health on the first day of the annual meeting of the medical society of North Carolina.

Organization of state board.

Meetings.

SEC. 8. Monthly returns of vital statistics upon a plan to be devised by the State Board of Health, shall be made by the county superintendents, and a failure to report by the tenth of the month, for the preceding month, shall subject the delinquent superintendent to a fine of one dollar for each day of delinquency.

County superintendent to make monthly returns of vital statistics.

Penalty for failure.

SEC. 9. Inland quarantine shall be under the control of the county superintendent of health, who, acting by the advice of the local board, shall see that diseases dangerous to the public health, viz: small pox, scarlet fever, yellow fever and cholera, shall be properly quarantined or isolated, (at the expense of the city or town in which it occurs). Any violation of the rules promulgated on this subject by the superintendent of health shall subject the offender to a fine of twenty-five hundred dollars and imprisonment for not longer than twenty days in the county jail. In case the offender be stricken with disease for which he is quarantinable, he will be subject to the penalty on recovery, without, in the opinion of the superintendent, it should be remitted. Quarantine of ports shall not be interfered with, but the officers of the local and State boards shall render all aid in their power to quarantine officers in discharge of their duties upon request of the latter.

Inland quarantine.

SEC. 10. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.—Wherever and whenever a nuisance upon premises shall exist, which in the opinion of the county superintendent of health is

Abatement of nuisances.

dangerous to the public health, it shall be his duty to notify the parties occupying the premises, (or the owner of the premises if not occupied), of its existence, its character, and the means of abating it, in writing. Upon this notification the parties shall proceed to abate the nuisance, but failing to do this shall pay a fine of one dollar a day dating from twenty-four hours after the notification has been served: *Provided, however*, that if the party notified shall make oath or affirmation before a magistrate of his or her inability to carry out the directions of the superintendent, it shall be done at the expense of the town or city. In the latter case the limit of the expense chargeable upon the town or city shall not be more than one hundred dollars in any case.

Proviso.

Vaccination.

SEC. 11. VACCINATION.—The secretary of the state board of health shall keep a supply of fresh animal vaccine virus at his command, and he shall issue quantities, in value not to exceed one dollar for one requisition, to county superintendents in case of a threatened outbreak of small pox. The county superintendents shall vaccinate and re-vaccinate all applying for such service, free of charge, the virus for such purposes to be furnished by the secretary of the state board of health at market rates. The county superintendent shall vaccinate every person admitted into a public institution, (jail, work house, poor house, public school), as soon as practicable, without he is satisfied upon examination that the person is already successfully vaccinated. On the appearance of a case of small pox in a neighborhood, all due diligence shall be used by the superintendent that warning shall be given, and all persons not able to pay, to be vaccinated free of charge by him. The vaccine for this purpose shall be paid for by the corporation in which the superintendent serves.

Small pox.

Diseases dangerous to public health.

SEC. 12. Bulletins of the outbreak of diseases dangerous to the public health shall be issued by the State board

whenever necessary, and such advice freely disseminated to prevent and check the invasion of disease into any part of the State. It shall also be the duty of the board to enquire into any outbreak of disease, by personal visits or by any method the board shall direct. The expenses [compensation] of members on such duty shall be five dollars a day, and the necessary traveling expenses.

Duties of state board.

Expenses.

SEC. 13. Special meetings of the State board of health may be called by the president, through the secretary. The regular annual meetings shall be held at the same time and place of the State medical society, at which time the secretary shall submit his annual report.

Special meetings.

Annual meeting.

SEC. 14. When the county superintendent of health shall in the course of his investigation required at coroner's inquest, think it necessary to subserve the ends of justice that a chemical analysis of the *viscera* or fluids of the body be made, he shall carefully pack up and seal the suspected article in a proper receptacle in the presence of a witness and forward it to the chemist of the agricultural station for analysis. (Such analysis shall be made free of charge, and be returned to the coroner of the county, such analysis having precedence over other matters of investigation not of a similar character, then in the laboratory of the chemist.) Analysis for purposes connected with the hygienic duties of the superintendent of health shall in like manner be made by the said chemist, upon requisition signed and approved by the secretary of the State board of health. Such analysis will include soil, drinking water, articles of food, air, &c., to be packed for transmission by direction of the chemist of the agricultural station.

Chemical analysis of bodies, when and how made.

SEC. 15. For carrying out the provisions of this act two hundred dollars is hereby annually appropriated, to be paid on requisition signed by the treasurer and president of the State board of health, and the printing and stationery necessary annually for the board be furnished

Annual appropriation of \$200.

Printing, &c.

Annual statement
of receipts, &c.

on requisition upon the state printer. A yearly statement shall be made to the Legislature of all moneys received and expended in pursuance of this act.

SEC. 16. All previous acts conflicting with this are hereby repealed upon the passage of this act.

Ratified the 14th day of March, 1879.

